



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 239, S.D. 2, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
James W. Walther or Melissa J. Kolonie, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization; (2) extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service providers of the preschool open doors program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation; (3) appropriate funds for the establishment of the Child Care Accreditation Program; and (4) appropriate funds to be deposited into the Child Care Grant Special Fund to be disbursed and expended to award grants to private child care providers participating in the Child Care Accreditation Program for certain costs required to obtain accreditation.

The bill provides an appropriation of public money, on page 8, lines 3 - 21, for the purpose of providing grants to private child care providers to assist them in obtaining accreditation. In our previous testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, we indicated that article VII, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides that, "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." This bill does not include standards by which the Department of Human Services is to distribute the funds to program participants, so, as the bill is written, the goal to support child care providers in obtaining accreditation cannot be

achieved. We therefore recommend that this bill be amended to insert sufficient standards for the Department of Human Services to distribute the funds appropriated in this bill as grants to private child care providers. Examples of existing statutes that provide standards for agencies to expend funds are part II of chapter 9, and sections 10-17, 210D-11, and 383-128, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which provide standards for the administrative grant of public money. Additionally, we have attached draft standards to this testimony as a sample to work from and we are happy to work with the Committee to develop more specific standards.

Furthermore, if this grant program is intended to be an ongoing program, the Legislature may want to consider codifying it in chapter 346, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

POSSIBLE STANDARDS FOR THE GRANTS IN THIS BILL

I. DEFINITIONS

Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Grant" means an award of state funds to a specified recipient to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Private educational institution" means a non-public entity that provides: (1) educational services for any grades from kindergarten through grade twelve; (2) post-secondary education; or (3) pre-kindergarten level services that are provided by an entity that holds itself out to the public as a school or educational institution, or that are identified by the entity as educational services rather than solely as child care services.

"Recipient" means a child care provider receiving a grant.

II. APPLICATIONS

Applications for grants. Requests for grants shall be submitted to the department in accordance with the administrative rules adopted by the department to administer the grant program. Each request shall at a minimum state:

- (1) The name of the child care provider requesting grant funds;
- (2) The expenses that are necessary for the childcare provider to obtain the accreditation; and
- (3) The age range of the children that the child care provider serves.

III. STANDARDS

Qualifying standards for grant funds. A child care provider applying for a grant shall meet the following

standards; specifically, the applicant shall provide proof that the applicant:

- (1) Has United States citizenship or permanent United States resident alien status and is a resident of the State of Hawaii at the time of application;
- (2) Is currently licensed or registered as a child care provider, or is an exempt provider approved by the department;
- (3) Provides child care at the time of application;
- (4) Is in compliance with other federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, necessary to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
- (5) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
- (6) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities;
- (7) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant;
- (8) Is not part of or owned or operated by or as a private educational institution;
- (9) Satisfies any other standards that may be required by the source of funding; and

- (10) Meets all other standards prescribed in rules adopted by the department to implement the grants.

Requirement for child care providers receiving grant funds.

Each child care provider who, after meeting the qualifications set out in section [__], receives grant funds from the department, is required to obtain accreditation and continue to provide child care for [] number of years after receiving accreditation.

IV. REVIEW OF APPLICATION

Required review of requests for grant funds. (a) Every request for grant funds shall be reviewed in accordance with this section.

(b) Every request for a grant shall be submitted to the department on an application form provided by the department. Each application shall at a minimum contain the information in section [__].

(c) The department shall review each request to determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive grant funds.

(d) The department shall make a final decision on each request.

(e) The department shall inform each grant applicant of the disposition of the application's request.

(f) The appeal process in the department's rules shall be available for any applicant who is denied a request for grant funds.

V. CONTRACTS

Contracts. The department shall not release the public funds approved for a grant unless a contract is entered into between the department and the recipient of the grant. The department shall develop and determine, in consultation with and

subject to the review and approval of the attorney general, the specific contract form to be used.

VI. ALLOTMENT

Allotment. Appropriations for grants to be made under this Act shall be subject to the allotment system generally applicable to all appropriations made by the legislature.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation. (a) Every department grant contract shall be monitored by the department to ensure compliance with this part.

(b) Every department grant contract shall be evaluated annually to determine whether the grant attained the intended results in the manner contemplated.

(c) The department shall develop procedures and adopt rules under chapter 91 for monitoring and evaluating grant contracts.

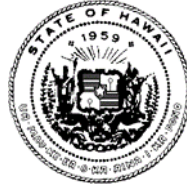
VIII. DUTY TO DISCLOSE AND PENALTY

Continued eligibility. Any recipient of a grant who withholds or omits any material fact or deliberately misrepresents facts to the department shall be in violation of this part. In addition to any other penalties provided by law, any recipient found by the department to have violated this part or the terms of its contract shall be prohibited from applying for any department grants for a period of five years from the date of termination.

IX. RULES

Rules. The department shall adopt rules, which may be done without regard to chapter 91, to administer the child care accreditation program.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 13, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SB 239 SD2](#) – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

Hearing: March 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, provides comments, and suggests additional amendments for consistency. However, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget and Governor's Messages.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization or an accrediting organization approved by the Director of Human Services. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation.

Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

The SD1 amended this measure by:

- 1) Clarifying that the Child Care Accreditation Program shall be established within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office;

- 2) Expanding the accrediting entity to organizations approved by the Director of Human Services;
- 3) Inserting a definition for "eligible child care provider" to mean a child care facility that is not part of or owned or operated by a private educational institution; provided that an organization or individual that owns or operates both a private educational institution and a child care facility may be deemed an "eligible child care provider" if the organization or individual can provide evidence that the operations and finances of the private educational institution are completely separate from the operations and finances of the child care facility so that it is clear that a child care grant would not support or benefit the private educational institution in violation of article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution;
- 4) Allowing the funds appropriated for the Child Care Accreditation Program to be used to fund the annual accreditation fees incurred by eligible child care providers participating in the Preschool Open Doors program;
- 5) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- 6) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- 7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended this measure by:

- 1) Authorizing the Child Care Accreditation Program to award grant funding to a child care provider that has committed to obtaining accreditation from an accrediting organization approved by the Director of Human Services;
- 2) Adding a new section to appropriate funds out of the child care grant program special fund for the purposes of the child care grant program; and
- 3) Making technical non substantive amendments for purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS appreciates the SD2 amendments and agrees with the extended time frames in Section 3. Extending the time to become accredited will give new child care workforce initiatives time to increase capacity and give eligible facilities ready to access accreditation resources more time to do so in a less pressured time frame.

DHS is investigating the costs for licensed providers to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Early Childhood Program (NECPA), and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) and will provide cost estimates. We estimate that approximately 28% of group child care centers are accredited and informed that accreditation takes approximately one year to complete.

The average cost for the initial fees to obtain NAEYC accredited status is \$4,155, and fees for initial NECPA accredited status are \$2,331. These costs vary depending on the licensed capacity of the group child care center. These fees are the accrediting organization's fees for processing and assessing an applying group child care center's request for accreditation. Notably, these accreditation fees do not include additional costs that a group child care center may incur to meet the accrediting organization's standards. Once accredited, both organizations have annual fees to maintain their accreditation. A general fund appropriation will be required to support the proposed grant program, as federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds may be accessed by reimbursement of specific accreditation fees.

As the session continues, DHS will provide additional cost estimates to contract an entity to establish, implement, and administer the child care accreditation program, including funding for one full-time equivalent position. In addition, once the Legislature appropriates funds, DHS will need time to develop and implement administrative rules and make system modifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 13, 2023

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 329 S.D. 2 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
ACCREDITATION
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Conference Room 329

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

EOEL supports S.B. No. 239 S.D. 2 and defers to the Department of Human Services regarding implementation.

This bill would establish a child care accreditation program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization and by paying for fees, technical assistance, and incidental costs.

Accreditation is one well-known measure of quality in early childhood education programming. However, obtaining accreditation can be costly and time-consuming for providers, many who are still recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Establishing this program with adequate appropriations would help support more providers in achieving and maintaining accreditation.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to support high-quality early learning programs and services in the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 239 S.D. 2 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
ACCREDITATION

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Conference Room 329

EARLY LEARNING BOARD POSITION: Support the Intent

The Early Learning Board (ELB) supports the intent of S.B. No. 239 S.D. 2 and defers to the Department of Human Services regarding the particulars of the bill and its implementation.

This bill would establish a child care accreditation program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization and by paying for fees, technical assistance, and incidental costs.

Accreditation is a rigorous process in support of quality early learning and care, which can be costly and time-consuming. Both are especially challenging post-COVID. Establishing this program with adequate supports, both financial and technical, will allow more providers to pursue accreditation and those already accredited to maintain that status.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of S.B. No. 239 S.D. 2.



Date: March 12, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SB239 SD2, Relating to Early Learning Accreditation**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS strongly supports passage of SB239 SD2, which would establish a program to support child care providers in obtaining quality accreditation from a national organization and extend the deadline by which Preschool Open Doors providers must achieve accreditation.

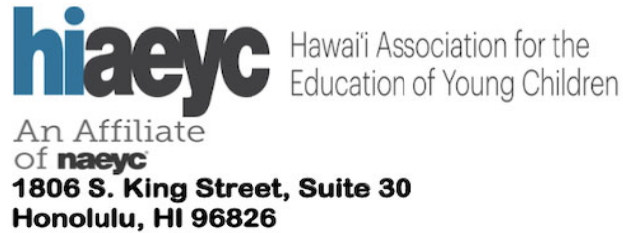
With the passage of Act 46 in 2020, early care and learning programs wishing to serve or continue serving children via the state's Preschool Open Doors subsidy program must initiate the process of national quality accreditation by 2024, and achieve accreditation no later than 2029.

Accreditation is a well-known measure of quality for early care and learning programs, and involves an arduous cycle of self- and external assessment to meet a battery of standards related to curriculum, staff and administrative qualifications, training and development, physical environment and more. Accreditation, however, is an expensive, intensive, and time-consuming endeavor for both programs new to the process, as well as those seeking to renew their time-limited accreditation. Basic fees to undergo the process with an accrediting body typically run into the thousands (e.g., \$1,825 for the National Association for the Education of Young Children/NAEYC) and providers must often make significant financial investments to upgrade their facilities, classroom environments, equipment and materials. Additionally, many programs need the support of coaching and technical assistance from content and process experts who can advise on areas needing improvement to meet standards, as well as the documentation and paperwork processes of the accrediting body.

Without a support program for our preschool and child care programs, the accreditation requirement of Act 46 creates a significant barrier and/or burden for these programs in serving Preschool Open Doors families and will significantly impact efforts to expand access to publicly-supported preschool opportunities for children. The creation of the accreditation program proposed by **SB239 SD2**, which would provide technical and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers, is critical to helping programs achieve important markers of quality and to preserving and expanding the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Additionally, given the tenuous state of child care programs and workforce capacity, we strongly support extensions to the timeframes by which programs must become accredited, as proposed by this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB239 SD2**.



TO:

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM:

Brenda Watanabe, VP Public Policy, HiAIEYC Board

SUBJECT: Measure: SB239 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION

Hearing Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 9:00am

The mission of the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAIEYC) is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's young children (birth to age 8) and their families." HiAIEYC is the Hawaii affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"Research shows a direct correlation between high-quality early learning and children's positive long-term outcomes in life, including increased educational attainment, healthier lifestyles, and more successful careers. NAEYC Accreditation helps teachers and other staff at early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. The accreditation process leads to increased staff morale, greater staff retention, and a more positive, energetic work atmosphere overall—enabling centers to provide a solid foundation for all children's success in life." –www.naeyc.org

HiAIEYC strongly supports early learning program accreditation and the commitment to quality every keiki deserves. Standards of accreditation include developmentally appropriate curriculum; healthy and safe environments; a well-prepared workforce; and a process that ensures continuous quality improvement. Childcare programs will be preparing to meet these accreditation standards as they commit to quality care and seek to qualify for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program.

But childcare programs need help. Programs need guidance and technical assistance to successfully navigate the accreditation process. They need resources to afford program improvements and upgrades. They need financial assistance to pay the accreditation fees to obtain and maintain their accreditation. They must receive assistance to be compliant with POD requirements or be in jeopardy of decreasing available seats.

HiAIEYC strongly supports SB239 relating to early learning accreditation. The creation of an accreditation program is an important step towards achieving markers of quality while receiving critical technical and financial assistance. We thank you for your time and consideration to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Watanabe,
VP of Public Policy, HiAIEYC Board

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Mizuno, Chair
Representative Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Re: SB239 SD2, relating to early learning accreditation
9:00 a.m., March 14, 2023

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 239 SD2, relating to early learning accreditation.**

Early learning programs often use accreditation as one tool to mark quality. Accreditation represents numerous measures that indicate that a program is developmentally appropriate and uses best practices in nurturing and educating our youngest learners. During the accreditation and re-accreditation processes, early learning programs display the ways their curriculum, teacher qualifications, environments and other components meet rigorous standards.

Unfortunately, **accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming** for providers. For example, fees to begin and complete accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) begin at \$1,825 and increase with the size of the preschool. Many preschools and child care providers also seek technical assistance to identify areas needing improvement, complete necessary paperwork, collect documentation and other tasks to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible. During preparations for accreditation, it is not uncommon for preschools and child care providers to identify upgrades that need to be made to buildings, classrooms, furniture or play equipment. These too cost money. Once a preschool or child care provider successfully achieves accreditation, they then must pay annual fees to maintain it. **All these reasons compound to make it extremely burdensome for many child care providers, especially small centers and family child care homes, to pursue accreditation.**

H.R.S. §346-184 currently requires existing Preschool Open Doors providers to begin the accreditation process by July 1, 2024 and obtain accreditation by July 1, 2029. New providers must have or obtain accreditation within seven calendar years of first receiving funds. **This**

means that unaccredited providers who are already serving Preschool Open Doors families must begin this expensive and intensive process within the next 18 months.

This requirement places a heavy burden on an already taxed early childhood care and education sector in a very short amount of time. **They cannot afford to carry more costs on their own; they need assistance.** Preschools and regulated child care providers typically already operate on razor-thin margins to keep their doors open, pay their staff and serve young children and families. These are the very same providers that have faced numerous challenges over the last three years of the pandemic. Most did not close their doors for essential workers even when everything else did. They continued to serve families at great cost—financial and otherwise—to ensure young keiki could continue to grow and learn with them.

The proposed accreditation program is an important step forward for the state of early childhood care and education, for the Preschool Open Doors program and for providers across Hawai'i.

SB239 will help providers shoulder the cost of achieving accreditation. The bill, as it is currently written, allows the Department of Human Services to support providers with funding that can cover myriad expenses associated with the accreditation process. **It is important that the Department has this flexibility to support providers in the various ways necessary.**

Please support SB239 SD2. This program will ensure providers of all sizes meet the quality markers our young children and their families deserve while preserving the current stock of available providers participating in Preschool Open Doors.

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:27:00 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gemma Medina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

I am a long time member of the National Association for the Eductaion of Young Children, (NAEYC), and currently serve on the local affiliate board, HiAEYC. I have been a preschool teacher and director in Hawai'i for over 20 years and I currently teach Early Childhood Education at UH Maui College. I am in support of this bill.

Please support SB239 which will assist preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. As a former director of an NAEYC accredited program, I understand both the monetary cost and the time investment required for obtaining accreditation- I also know the importance of providng quality care for our keiki. With Preschool Open Doors funds only going to accredited programs in the near future, our Directors will need support in obtaining funds to fulfill this requirement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gemma Medina

Elaine Yamashita
105 Kamehameiki Rd.
Kula, HI 96790-8451
808-281-1216
elainey208@gmail.com

March 12, 2023

Aloha to Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Amato and committee members:

I am in support of SB 239 SD2. I'm an advocate for early care and education, longtime Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAEYC, an affiliate of NAEYC) member, and professor emerita of UH Maui College.

Programs are wanting to pursue accreditation, and need financial and technical support in order to successfully bring the program up to accreditation standards. High quality programs provide a strong foundation for our keiki and their 'ohana. The key to high quality is their quality staff, and this measure would provide support to staff and the program.

Your support of this measure is much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Elaine Yamashita

March 12, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Subject: **Measure** – SB 239 SD2 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION
Hearing Date – March 14, 2023
Time - 9:00 AM
Location - Room 329

This testimony is in support of SB239 SD2.

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Education (COE) and serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE³) Project.

I am in support of SB239 SD2 which will support licensed preschools and regulated child care providers achieve program accreditation and preserve the number of quality preschools and child care programs available for Preschool Open Doors families.

Research shows a direct correlation between high-quality early learning and children's positive long-term outcomes in life, including increased educational attainment, healthier lifestyles, and more successful careers.

For many years, I provided DHS licensed preschools with technical assistance and coaching to improve the quality of their program through a national early learning accreditation organization. I found one of the important benefits of accreditation is how teachers and other staff of early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. The accreditation process leads to increased staff morale, greater staff retention, and a more positive and energetic work atmosphere overall. However, going through the accreditation process can be expensive, time consuming and difficult for preschools and family child care providers to complete.

Therefore, SB239 SD2 states that programs wishing to serve Preschool Open Doors families shall be accredited by national early learning accreditation organizations or an accreditation body approved by the director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). SB239 SD2 establishes an accreditation support program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide operational and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers seeking accreditation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB239 SD2.

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:01:36 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12, 2023

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

My name is Kathleen Cadiz and I am an early childhood educator serving Hawaii’s children for over 20 years. Please support SB239 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation will be the significant mark in serving high-quality and excellence for our young keikis of Hawaii. With this forthcoming leap to get child care programs to become accredited by 2029, early childhood educators and their programs will need an all around support to transition into this new change. SB239 will be well invested because it brings high quality statewide and will sustain child care programs who serve Preschool Open Doors Families.

I have mentioned an all around support for child care providers because an Accreditation process can involve extensive changes and financial support that will be needed to fund improvement changes. A form of technical assistance to guide child care providers, access to monies to renovate their facilities or learning environment, equip programs with quality learning materials, and sending their staff back to school to acquire proper staffing requirements to meet teacher-child ratios are pressing examples of what a program may need to modify towards this Accreditation process.

Accreditation can be a challenge for child care providers and I ask that SB239 fully supports our programs with technical support and financial assistance so we can deliver quality early childhood in our programs.

Mahalo,

Kathleen Cadiz

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:19:44 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Marois	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Accreditation is **expensive, intensive and time-consuming** for child care providers, who are already suffering from pay inequities. The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical and financial assistance to ensure quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Please support SB239.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Deb Marois, Makawao

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:24:05 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raya Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and committee members,

Please support SB 239, which will help preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and safeguard the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors (POD) families. Accreditation is one of the most recognized measures of quality in early childhood care and education. However, accreditation is costly, rigorous, and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously and for those who have to repeat the accreditation process. The bottomline is that many preschools and child care providers are tapped out of money and energy to begin and complete the accreditation that will soon be required to continue serving POD families. Additionally, without the support and guidance of an accreditation program, this requirement stalls efforts to increase the number of programs available. The creation of an accreditation program is an essential step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to POD families. As a young, middle-class woman hoping to start a family soon in Honolulu, it is my sincere hope that affordable, high-quality childcare programs will be available to my future children. Ensuring that programs serving POD families get the support they need to gain accreditation is a huge step in the right direction. Please support this measure—for the present and future families who seek the quality child care that their keiki deserve.

Sincerely,

Raya Esteban

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:26:47 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

Please support SB239 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Please support this measure.

Kee Lo

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:45:01 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Baunach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

Please support SB239 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. My mother was a daycare provider in Oregon for over 30 years and accreditation helped families to know she was regulated and kept up to date with child protection laws. Hawaii's keiki deserve the same.

Please support this measure.

SB-239-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:33:14 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation. Mahalo for your consideration.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise